

Screenshots

URL: <https://twitter.com/zeynep/status/1268933764090155008>

Abfragezeitpunkt: 16.03.2023, 02:29 MEZ

Teil 1

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← **Thread**

 **zeynep tufekci**  @zeynep · Mar 17, 2020

For the [@nytimes](#), I wrote about why health authorities telling people they didn't need masks, and, besides they wouldn't wear them right, misfired and maybe even fueled hoarding. There will be many painful truths, and we need to learn to talk about them. nytimes.com/2020/03/17/opi...

First, many health experts, including the surgeon general of the United States, told the public simultaneously that masks weren't necessary for protecting the general public and that health care workers needed the dwindling supply. This contradiction confuses an ordinary listener. How do these masks magically protect the wearers only and only if they work in a particular field?

Second, there were attempts to bolster the first message, that ordinary people didn't need masks, by telling people that masks, especially medical-grade respirator masks (such as the N95 masks), needed proper fitting and that ordinary people without such fitting wouldn't benefit. This message was also deeply counterproductive. Many people also wash their hands wrong, but we don't respond to that by telling them not to bother. Instead, we provide instructions; we post signs in bathrooms; we help people sing songs that time their hand-washing. Telling people they can't possibly figure out how to wear a mask properly isn't a winning message. Besides, when you tell people that something works only if done right, they think they will be the person who does it right, even if everyone else doesn't.

119 2,088 4,079

 **zeynep tufekci**  @zeynep · Mar 17, 2020

One big reason we don't have enough masks is that not only did China stop exporting them completely after COVID-19, China went and "bought up much of the rest of the world's supply." We should have ramped up domestic production in January but we didn't. 😢 nytimes.com/2020/03/13/bus...

China did not just stop selling masks — it also bought up much of the rest of the world's supply. According to official data, China imported 56 million respirators and masks in the first week after the January lockdown of [the city of Wuhan](#), where the coronavirus emerged.

On Jan. 30, the last day for which data is available, China managed to import 20 million respirators and surgical masks in just 24 hours. Through February, civic-minded entrepreneurs and aid groups visited pharmacies in affluent countries and emerging markets alike, buying masks in bulk to send to China.

Global companies and charities donated, too. Honeywell provided 500,000 N95 respirator masks, and 3M donated a million of them. Honeywell said its contribution came from stockpiles in China, while 3M declined to identify the source of its donations.

29 492 1,054

 **zeynep tufekci**  @zeynep · Mar 17, 2020

Sadly all those (well-meaning) posts from healthcare experts on how masks won't work for ordinary people because they won't wear them correctly likely encouraged hoarding even more. That was never a message that would work. No wonder I'm constantly seeing online ads for masks!

13 91 543

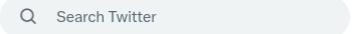
 **zeynep tufekci**  @zeynep · Mar 17, 2020

This is so obvious that it's painful. I know my piece will upset some, but learning to deal with painful truths is one of the skills we really need to learn, especially as there are so many of them exposed now.

 **Dr. Thrasher**  @thrasherxy · Mar 17, 2020

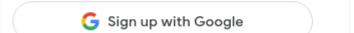
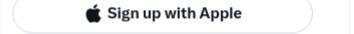
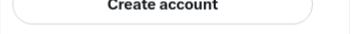
This by @zeynep is a great piece which answered many of my questions about the politics, production and usefulness of masks, especially this one I've been pondering: If we all could be asymptotically infected, shouldn't we *all* be wearing masks? nytimes.com/2020/03/17/opi...

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 **World Health Orga...**  

We are the [#UnitedNations](#)' health agency - [#HealthForAll](#). Always check our latest tweets on [#COVID19](#) for updated advice/information.

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Teil 2

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6 116 537

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 17, 2020

Not forgetting that the Chinese government unleashed this pandemic in the first place with initial lies and cover-up: not racist. Claiming that universal mask wearing in Hong Kong and Taiwan (where it is mostly under control) was just superstition? Yeah.

Naomi Wu @RealSexyCyborg · Mar 17, 2020

Replying to @zeynep and @nytimes

People in Asia have been explaining this for months- while Western journalists wrote articles claiming that we wore them because we're superstitious. People in Asia have been explaining this for months- while Western journalists wrote articles claiming that we wore them because we're superstitious. twitter.com/RealSexyCyborg...

9 92 470

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 17, 2020

Authorities say don't wear a mask unless you're sick but DO wear a mask if you are. How are you supposed to know? Plus, see key paper: many have mild, undetected illnesses but are infecting others. Universal mask wearing "would" have helped. Painful truth is we don't have enough.

Science 16 Mar 2020
eabb3221
DOI: 10.1126/science.eabb3221

Article Figures & Data Info & Metrics eLetters PDF

Abstract

Estimation of the prevalence and contagiousness of undocumented novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV2) infections is critical for understanding the overall prevalence and pandemic potential of this disease. Here we use observations of reported infection within China, in conjunction with mobility data, a networked dynamic metapopulation model and Bayesian inference, to infer critical epidemiological characteristics associated with SARS-CoV2, including the fraction of undocumented infections and their contagiousness. We estimate 86% of all infections were undocumented (95% CI: 82%–90%) prior to 23 January 2020 travel restrictions. Per person, the transmission rate of undocumented infections was 55% of documented infections (46%–62%), yet, due to their greater numbers, undocumented infections were the infection source for 79% of documented cases. These findings explain the rapid geographic spread of SARS-CoV2 and indicate containment of this virus will be particularly challenging.

10 252 757

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 17, 2020

Hey, could someone from @Twitter please try to purge the mask-seller bots that are appearing in response to this? As the article points out, it really sucks but here we are and the health care workers desperately need these masks more. @safety @delibus

4 45 349

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 17, 2020

Also, everyone who wrote such articles, please rethink the harm of this message. The weird claim that people in Asian countries (where this pandemic is much more under control) with the deep experience of SARS wore masks out of superstition is part of the reason we are here.

TIME

intervention," Schaffner says. Other reasons are purely psychological. One stems from the fear of losing control to a virus we know little about preventing. "There's not much we can do, so we're all walking around feeling rather victimized by this virus," says Schaffner. "By using a mask, even if it doesn't do a lot, it moves the locus of control to you, away from the virus. It gives the individual a greater sense of control in this otherwise not-controlled situation."

Lynn Bufka, a clinical psychologist and senior director for practice, research and policy at the American Psychological Association, suspects that people are clinging to masks for the same reason they knock on wood or avoid walking under ladders. "Even if experts are saying it's really not going to make a difference, a little [part of] people's brains is thinking, well, it's not going to hurt. Maybe it'll cut my risk just a little bit, so it's worth it to wear a mask," she says. In that sense, wearing a mask is a "superstitious behavior": if someone wore a mask when coronavirus or another viral illness was spreading and did not get sick, they may credit the mask for keeping them safe and keep wearing it.

Seeing people around you wearing masks when you're not can also heighten anxiety about coronavirus and make it seem like the virus is nearby and spreading, even if it's not, Bufka says. "It could make you feel like, wait, I'm

6 98 494

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 17, 2020

New paper: Hong Kong has not only contained COVID-19 for the moment, they've drastically reduced flu rates with social distancing, hygiene and near universal mask wearing. (Note: their government is unpopular and wasn't on board. The people acted anyway.) medrxiv.org/content/10.110...

11-14. We analysed data on laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, influenza surveillance data in outpatients of all ages, and influenza

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Teil 3

influenza surveillance data in outpatients of all ages, and influenza hospitalisations in children. We estimated the daily effective reproduction number (R_t), for COVID-19 and influenza A(H1N1). Findings: COVID-19 transmissibility has remained at or below 1, indicating successful containment to date. Influenza transmission declined substantially after the implementation of social distancing measures and changes in population behaviours in late January, with a 44% (95% confidence interval, CI: 34% to 53%) reduction in transmissibility in the community, and a 33% (95% CI: 24% to 43%) reduction in transmissibility based on paediatric hospitalisation rates. In the two surveys we estimated that 74.5% and 97.5% of the general adult population wore masks when going out, and 61.3% and 90.2% avoided going to crowded places, respectively. Implications: Containment measures, social distancing measures and changes in population behaviour have successfully prevented spread of COVID-19. The social distancing measures and behavioural changes led to a substantial reduction in influenza transmission in early February 2020. However, it may be challenging to avoid fatigue and sustain these measures and population behaviours as COVID-19 continues to spread globally. Funding: Health and Medical Research Fund, Hong Kong

11 436 905

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 17, 2020

Taiwan also quickly ramped up domestic production of masks and had a sensible plan to curb hoarding while ensuring access. Along with other sensible and non-draconian measures, they also contained COVID-19 for the moment despite a lot of travel with China. foreignpolicy.com/2020/03/16/tai...

Recognizing that it had to ensure an adequate supply of medical equipment, including face masks, for health professionals and the public, Taiwan's government stopped exports of surgical face masks on January 24 while requesting local companies to step up production. Daily production is set to reach 10 million soon, divided between the public, medical, and industrial sectors.

The government also took control of face mask distribution from the private sector on Jan. 31, ensuring there would be no hoarding of supplies or exploitative pricing, as has happened in other places such as Hong Kong. Taiwan also implemented a purchasing policy on Feb. 6 in which every Taiwanese can buy a certain amount of adult and children's masks per week from pharmacies and clinics for NT\$5 (\$0.17) each. And to allow for easier distribution and prevent long lines outside clinics, Taiwanese can now start ordering their masks online and pick them up at a later date.

7 147 457

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 17, 2020

This is another important point. The "flatten-the-curve" urgency will eventually lead to "life must go on while we wait for vaccines/herd-immunity" and some form of mask-wearing may well be necessary for the transition.

James Tang @James69888 · Mar 17, 2020

Replying to @GiaTashaTomasso @thrasherxy and @zeynep

True, but this may go on for more than a year. We will need masks sooner or later.

8 106 431

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 18, 2020

Yep. That's why we can't just say "wear masks only if you're sick." Besides the fact that we're not testing enough so people can't know if they're sick, and that many can be infectious without any symptoms, it just creates a stigma around wearing a mask. twitter.com/NathanWomack_...

You're unable to view this Tweet because this account owner limits who can view their Tweets. [Learn more](#)

6 82 340

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 18, 2020

Please read this whole thread. We are eventually going to have to release people from lockdown, and universal mask wearing (not N95, but surgical masks) is one way to do it with less harm. twitter.com/scottgottliebm...

This Tweet is unavailable.

6 115 344

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 18, 2020

Folks don't @ me BUT do it: arrange locally to allow people to donate N95 masks to hospitals, maybe exchange with surgical masks. Hospitals are out of N95s; CDC is telling them to use surgical masks instead; people are sitting on N95s but hearing some willing to donate/exchange.

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NetzBeweis - Report

Teil 4

Out of N95s, CDC is telling them to use surgical masks instead; people are sitting on N95s but hearing some willing to donate/exchange.

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 22, 2020

Washington Post published another masks are superstition oped, so I'll just put this here instead. twitter.com/wesyang/status...

This Tweet is unavailable.

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 22, 2020

The tragedy of this kind of top down misinformation is when we are done with the shortage how are they going to tell everybody to mask up? As they have to if we are to get through this? (Folks don't hoard and donate N95s now).

Pinboard @Pinboard · Mar 22, 2020

Washington Post still publishing headlines about how masks don't help, as if they were a bizarre superstition and not part of an effective intervention in the only countries that have gotten coronavirus under control. Source here is a psychology professor who writes about success

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don't help, but tossing ~~sa~~ ^{stis} boulder? Why people want ~~e~~.

an associate professor of psychology at New York University. Better; How Successful People See the World."

p.m. GMT+9

coronavirus pandemic, countless people are with surgical masks and buying up most ~~s~~ experts keep telling us, is that most masks not sick — and buying the better models, correctly, limits their availability for the runs on toilet paper and, perhaps even n

That 'magical thinking' offers comfort during a crisis.

Photo: AP

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 22, 2020

I'm going to say it outright. It's crystal clear that we'll have to adopt universal mask wearing as soon as we're over the shortage for healthcare workers. People still saying masks don't help, people won't know how to wear them, they can be harmful etc. are doing real harm.

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 22, 2020

Not admitting the obvious fuels mistrust and hoarding more. People aren't idiots. And once the shortage is over, it's going to be tough to switch to universal mask wearing, which is obviously a requirement to get through the next year.

A few million pixels @itsybitsydots · Mar 22, 2020

Replies to @zeynep and @ncweaver

to be fair, this was probably the only way to get private individuals to not hoard the supply

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 23, 2020

Local friends, UNC hospitals need donations of N95 masks and other supplies. It's a travesty we can't protect our healthcare workers despite months of warning. Also, if you needed proof any mask is better than none: they will accept homemade masks as well. unchealthcare.org/coronavirus/wa...

UNC Health is accepting donations of masks sewn at home. Choose an option below, or find a similar pattern that works for you.

For all masks, please use clean, tightly-woven cotton fabric on both sides, and sew on a clean work surface.

[Basic mask](#) [Euface mask](#)

UNC Health will accept any of the following items:

- Most Urgent Needs
 - N95 masks
 - Surgical masks
 - Surgical mask with shield
 - Nasal swabs for medical use
- Other Needs
 - Disinfectant
 - Eye protection, including safety goggles/glasses
 - Face shield
 - Gloves, disposable
 - Gowns, disposable
 - Hand sanitizer, greater than 60% alcohol
 - Hand soap
 - Shoe covers, disposable
 - Handmade masks

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 23, 2020

The sooner we stop misinforming people about the need and efficacy of

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Teil 5

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 23, 2020

The sooner we stop misinforming people about the need and efficacy of universal mask wearing, the better. Not telling the truth now will make it harder to pivot after the mask shortage. Also people can see through the bullshit and mistrust fuels hoarding.

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 22, 2020

I'm going to say it outright. It's crystal clear that we'll have to adopt universal mask wearing as soon as we're over the shortage for healthcare workers. People still saying masks don't help, people won't know how to wear them, they can be harmful etc. are doing real harm.

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19 119 338

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 23, 2020

This top-down mask misinformation will cause another crisis: other critical workers (stores, pharmacies, delivery) will stop showing up because lack of masks means they are at high risk. Yes, hospitals first but then everyone at the front line and then all of us need to mask up.

4 41 188

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 23, 2020

Great overview of the evidence on masks. Notes that review of SARS studies (same family of virus as the one causing COVID-19) found that "face masks were the most consistently effective intervention" (though keep washing your hands). Read it yourself! medium.com/@adrien.burch/...

Can face masks offer protection against SARS?

According to research on the SARS epidemic, face masks were the most consistently effective intervention for reducing the contraction and spread of SARS. In a Cochrane Review on the subject, 6 out of 7 studies showed that face masks (surgical and N95) offered significant protection against SARS. Hand washing was also very effective, supported by 4 out of 7 studies in a multivariate analysis.

Although most of the studies in the Cochrane Review were on medical workers in a hospital setting, one study followed community transmission of SARS in Beijing. It found that consistently wearing a mask in public was associated with a 70% reduction in risk of catching SARS. Additionally, the authors of the paper noted that most people in the community wore simple surgical masks, not N95 respirators.

This may be why public health agencies in many other countries encourage — or even require — the general public to wear face masks. It may also be why the CDC currently recommends that we wear face masks while in the same room as a sick family member who is not wearing a mask.

10 365 571

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 23, 2020

Indeed. This is false. After the shortage, we will need to expand to everyone. How will we convince them? Lol, a week ago you couldn't possibly wear a mask correctly, soooo complicated, and didn't need them but now you can and must wear them. Won't work.

Joe Calhoun @jbc_3 · Mar 23, 2020

Replying to @zeynep

Went to the grocery store today (Charlottesville) and all the workers were maskless. Asked the young checker if the store had had any conversations about having checkers wear masks and she said no, she'd been told it was not needed unless you are sick.

5 31 186

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 23, 2020

This is terrible. Top-down misinformation has made life difficult for mask-wearers. I think the only way forward is honesty plus real apologies from people who misinformed us. It's a real pickle, but very difficult otherwise to get to where we need to be.

Janus Rose @janusrose · Mar 23, 2020

Replying to @zeynep

i literally had a Man Online tell me i'm only wearing a mask "for instagram likes". i've been delivering supplies and food in my neighborhood and i'm so tired of this!!

5 32 209

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 23, 2020

Some evidence from Hong Kong that paper towel outer layer and 3-ply soft tissue inner layer may be an acceptable "and" disposable replacement for surgical masks—perhaps with a plastic folder face shield. Can people with access to labs pleeease test this? consumer.org.hk/ws_en/news/202...

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(Image 11) Finished Version

Teil 6

(Image 11) Finished Version



15 97 278

zeynep tufekci · Mar 23, 2020

The article is from February 5, but at this point, tweeting it out like this goes in the same folder as the WMD lies about Iraq. I don't know how else to put it. We have solid evidence of asymptomatic spread, thus obvious need for universal mask wearing. twitter.com/latimes/status/...?

Los Angeles Times · Mar 23, 2020

How to prevent coronavirus: Wash your hands and ditch the mask latimes.com/science/story/...

9 61 278

zeynep tufekci · Mar 23, 2020

"Television broadcasts, subway station announcements and smartphone alerts provide endless reminders to wear face masks". The piece doesn't mention it but the Korean government distributes masks to make sure everyone has them. Masks aren't an afterthought. twitter.com/max_fisher/sta...

Max Fisher · Mar 23, 2020

South Korea and Italy had near-concurrent outbreaks that initially followed a parallel, terrifying trajectory.

Mere weeks later, as Italy reports 793 deaths in one day, Korea has two. Some days it has "zero".

Me and Choe Sang-Hun report how they did it: nytimes.com/2020/03/23/wor...

[Show this thread](#)

3 100 250

zeynep tufekci · Mar 24, 2020

From an article that compiled interviews with top experts on what works to slow the spread of this coronavirus. Universal mask wearing!

Abraar Karan · Mar 24, 2020

8/ Masks were a whole different ball game as well.

Everyone wore masks. Part of this was to prevent transmission.

But part of it was also to reduce stigma against the sick.

If only the sick wear masks, they may be hesitant.

But if everyone does, then no one is missed.

[Show this thread](#)

2 59 176

zeynep tufekci · Mar 24, 2020

Singapore. twitter.com/liz_in_shangha...

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4 35 120

zeynep tufekci · Mar 24, 2020

Hong Kong is the densest city in the world. It has a tiny fraction of New York's cases. Almost everyone wears masks though and they take the distancing seriously. twitter.com/brianrosenthal...

This Tweet is unavailable.

19 195 519

zeynep tufekci · Mar 24, 2020

Future generations will be driven batty by the amount of concern over contamination from cardboard boxes—a tail risk: porous surface, exponential decay—compared with protecting the pathways to OUR RESPIRATORY SYSTEM WITH MASKS FOR A RESPIRATORY ILLNESS

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Teil 7

exponential decay—compared with protecting the pathways to OUR RESPIRATORY SYSTEM WITH MASKS FOR A RESPIRATORY ILLNESS WITH ASYMPTOMATIC SPREAD. 

13 155 456  

 **zeynep tufekci**  @zeynep · Mar 26, 2020 

I believe that this is the best temporary make-your-own-mask solution. It's disposable, requires only paper towel and tissue and had promising lab tests.

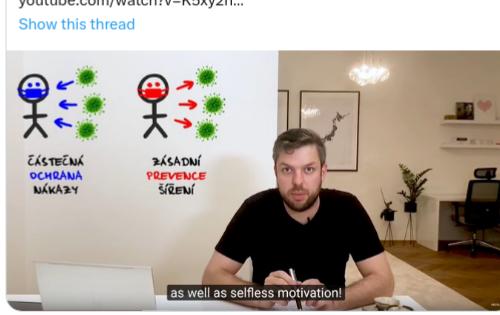

South China Morning Post

scmp.com
Make your own mask: Hong Kong scientists reveal temporary solution...
Lab tests by City University find home-made masks achieve 80 to 90 per cent function of regular ones in terms of filtration of aerosol and ...

14 236 483  

 **zeynep tufekci**  @zeynep · Mar 26, 2020 

The Czech Republic converted, quickly, to universal mask wearing, including home-made masks as necessary about a week ago. There really are no arguments left against promoting universal mask wearing and yet media/guidelines still say no need.


as well as selfless motivation!

13 137 243  

 **zeynep tufekci**  @zeynep · Mar 26, 2020 

Another misinformation I see floating widely: without eye-protection masks are useless. No. It's a respiratory disease. Goggles help lessen risk, sure, but key route is respiratory. Masks are key. Surface contamination from boxes is similarly a tail risk. (But wash your hands!)

as well as selfless motivation!

4 36 140  

 **zeynep tufekci**  @zeynep · Mar 26, 2020 

When misinformation comes from the top (Saddam's Iraq has WMD!), as with masks, the job of journalists is to investigate, to speak with independent experts "and" find whistleblowers within these organizations and get the truth out there. Sooner the better.

as well as selfless motivation!

 **World Health Organization (WHO)**  @WH... · Mar 26, 2020 

If you do not have any respiratory symptoms, such as fever, cough, or runny nose, you do not need to wear a medical mask. When used alone, masks can give you a false feeling of protection and can even be a source of infection when not used correctly.  bit.ly/2QN3QOp

The media could not be played.

 Reload

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Teil 8

zeynep tufekci  @zeynep · Mar 26, 2020

Finally. Also need more on WHO—especially their China response/lack thereof—and more CDC. Most media still parrot CDC/WHO on everything without enough analysis. Both orgs "still" do much excellent work but are too important to act as if they are perfect.

Sheryl Gay Stolberg  @SherylNYT · Mar 26, 2020

The @CDC was once the crown jewel of the world's public health agencies. [propublica](#) has the scoop, with internal emails, on how it bungled the coronavirus response. [propublica.org/article/intern...](#)

zeynep tufekci  @zeynep · Mar 26, 2020

We need to model whether distributing ~four surgical masks per person, to be sanitized via 160F oven for 30 min and reused, and worn universally for the next few weeks in hotspots like NYC might be a better way of preserving PPE for hospitals by reducing the pileup at their door.

zeynep tufekci  @zeynep · Mar 26, 2020

People leaving NYC is no solution, as their necessary self quarantine in the next few weeks will inevitably require outings for food etc. Mask wearing must continue wherever people go. We can do this now maybe in the hotspots. Maybe NYC hospitals can lead this. Someone should.

zeynep tufekci  @zeynep · Mar 26, 2020

They got together in March! They all washed their hands. They sat apart. Nobody had symptoms. They didn't wear masks. It's a respiratory disease with asymptomatic spread. Our denial here is increasingly at anti-vaxer level.

Mike Baker  @ByMikeBaker · Mar 26, 2020

60 people showed up for a choir practice earlier this month. 45 got sick. 1 has died.

A remarkable window into how contagious coronavirus can be, even when it appears nobody is symptomatic:

nytimes.com/live/2020/coro...

Ruth Backlund, a co-president at the Skagit Valley Chorale, said the group was monitoring public health guidelines at the time of the practice and had asked people to stay home if they showed even minor signs of illness. The group gathered in rows facing a piano and a choir director. They were all in individual chairs and had space to keep separated. Ms. Backlund had made sure there were extra soap dispensers in the bathrooms for people to wash their hands.

"Nobody was sick. Nobody touched anybody. Nobody shook hands. Nobody hugged everybody like you might do in a group. There was none of that," Ms. Backlund said.

zeynep tufekci  @zeynep · Mar 27, 2020

Not picking on Matt (Love [@thenib!](#)) and the reaction is understandable but yes, the internet rando with the touchscreen is correct and the WHO is wrong. It's as if the WHO is telling us Saddam has WMD. We need to stop fighting the last misinformation war. twitter.com/MattBors/status/...

This Tweet is unavailable.

zeynep tufekci  @zeynep · Mar 27, 2020

Germany's medical association is on board with universal mask wearing. It is perhaps the easiest tool with most bang for the buck we could deploy right now, today, in the United States. And yet we are drowning in top-down misinformation. [#maskeauf](#)

Boris Ruge  @RugeBoris · Mar 27, 2020

German medical association [@BAEKaktuell](#) calls on people to wear makeshift [#masks](#) at all times. Needed NOW: A public info campaign to get this going in [#Germany](#) What about [@jensspahn](#) doing his next presser with a fancy mask? [#masks4all](#) [#covid19](#)

aerzteblatt.de/nachrichten/11

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Teil 9

aerzteblatt.de/nachrichten/11...

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YouTube #StayHome

In Czech Republic, masks have been compulsory since March 18th

There have only been 2 deaths in the country so far. They do lots of testing.

We need #masks4all

In the Czech Republic, masks have been compulsory since March 18th. The country has only 2 deaths (as at March 24) and the growth of new cases has fl...

13 170 278

zeynep tufekci  @zeynep · Mar 28, 2020

Please look at the chart, folks. twitter.com/drsidmukherjee...

This Tweet is unavailable. [Learn more](#)

6 71 142

zeynep tufekci  @zeynep · Mar 28, 2020

You know whose going to pay the biggest price for WHO's incorrect recommendations on masks? Poor, crowded countries like India. It's perhaps the only effective, low-cost intervention available to them. People within WHO with a conscience have to speak up.

economictimes.indiatimes.com

Everyone need not wear a mask: Govt issues coronavirus advisory o... While there has been a mad rush across the country for buying masks, the advisory says that everyone need not wear a mask and ...

5 106 232

zeynep tufekci  @zeynep · Mar 28, 2020

I'm seeing people modeling length of lockdown time needed in the US using Wuhan parameters. What we're doing isn't anywhere near Wuhan did. Even the best we're doing doesn't resemble Wuhan. There are categories of action that were done in Wuhan that we haven't even discussed.

6 52 167

zeynep tufekci  @zeynep · Mar 28, 2020

I hope this is true!! But please, start today. Make a homemade mask and wear it. Use a surgical mask—hopefully CDC can give us guidance on sanitization and reuse. Hospitals can distribute a few surgical masks per person—lessening the pileup at their door.

 Matt McCarthy  @DrMattMcCarthy · Mar 28, 2020

NEW: CDC guidance on masks expected to change in next 10 days. Americans will be advised to wear masks in everyday life. Current recommendation is for high-risk groups only.

12 67 154

zeynep tufekci  @zeynep · Mar 28, 2020

Yeah, please stop the hemming-and-hawing writing folks. The evidence is clear, the arguments are clear. Don't bury the findings. Universal mask wearing is one of the best ways to protect the whole community during a

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Teil 10

clear, the arguments are clear. Don't bury the findings. Universal mask wearing is one of the best ways to protect the whole community during a pandemic with asymptomatic transmission.

Pinboard @Pinboard · Mar 28, 2020

Buried lede in this hemming-and-hawing NYT article is that wearing masks is more effective than washing your hands ten times a day. (And yes, "Why not both?") The WHO and CDC fatwa against mask wearing in public is costing lives. nytmes.com/2020/03/27/health/coronavirus-masks-wash-hands

[Show this thread](#)

hen researchers conducted [systematic review of a variety of interventions](#) used during the SARS outbreak in 2003, they found at washing hands more than 10 times daily was 55 percent effective in stopping virus transmission, while wearing a mask was actually more effective — at about 68 percent. Wearing gloves offered about the same amount of protection as frequent hand-washing, and combining all measures — hand-washing, masks, gloves and a protective gown — increased the intervention effectiveness to 91 percent.

7 76 163

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 28, 2020

Also, based on a ridiculous and false misrepresentation of my piece on the widespread asymptomatic thinking that made things worse, @NateSilver538 told me I should "sit this out" and won't correct his caricature of me. I *refuse* to "sit it out"—but putting it here for the record.

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 28, 2020

Replies to @zeynep and @NateSilver538

Hi Nate, you still haven't corrected your gross misrepresentation of my position. I'm just gonna put a few receipts here on what it means for you to call on me to "sit this one out." My NYT oped on masks. [twitter.com/zeynep/status/...](https://twitter.com/zeynep/status/)

5 18 114

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 29, 2020

Another important op-ed on masks from @jeremyphoward in the Washington Post. We should especially pay attention to the Czech Republic: they, too, have a shortage. So they started with a massive campaign for homemade masks. Cultures can change and adapt. [washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/03/29/czech-republic-masks-covid-19/...](https://washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/03/29/czech-republic-masks-covid-19/)

When historians tally up the many missteps policymakers have made in response to the [coronavirus](#) pandemic, the senseless and unscientific push for the general public to avoid wearing masks should be near the top.

The evidence not only fails to support the push, it also contradicts it. It can take a while for official recommendations to catch up with scientific thinking. In this case, such delays might be deadly and economically disastrous. It's time to make masks a key part of our fight to contain, then defeat, this pandemic. Masks effective at "flattening the curve" can be made at home with nothing more than a T-shirt and a pair of scissors. We should all wear masks — store-bought or homemade — whenever we're out in public.

8 68 139

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 29, 2020

One senator is on board!

Pat Toomey (US Sen. ret.) @SenToomey · Mar 29, 2020

Research shows that fluids spread when coughing/sneezing are a big transmitter of COVID-19. Each of us needs to do what we can to stop the spread. One easy thing we all can do, today, is wear homemade masks in public. My mask could help you, your mask could help me. #Masks4All

The media could not be played.

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NetzBeweis - Report

Teil 11

zeynep tufekci  @zeynep · Mar 29, 2020

The mask misinformation has gotten so bad that many people don't realize this is a RESPIRATORY ILLNESS. The main method of transmission is EXHALATION/INHALATION. People are bleaching cardboard boxes and then going shopping/to work without masks. (screenshot, not blaming person).

jeremyphoward and @zeynep

give a false sense of security and obscure what is thought to be: touching surface with hands are useful to help remind against touching face or door to a mosquito.

zeynep tufekci  @zeynep · Mar 29, 2020

Another excellent article by a doctor on why we need to switch to masks for all, ASAP. Also sensible advice on managing the shortage while prioritizing medical workers. Slowing this epidemic with masks is how we will ultimately protect our medical workers!

medscape.com/viewarticle/92...

As the weight of evidence shifts toward supporting a major role for asymptomatic transmission, the use of personal facemasks, especially in crowded areas, becomes instrumental in preventing community spread of the virus. We can no longer rely on symptoms or screening to tell us whether mask protection is needed.

So why voice a need for widespread mask use in desperate times when we do not even have enough masks for hospitals?

The reason is that by making the facts public, more resources may become available. The message that masks not only can protect healthcare workers but also can help control the outbreak may recruit more efforts, allocate more resources, and make this a national top priority.

This was exactly what happened in Asia, where universal mask wear has been advised. Both Taiwan and South Korea faced shortages of masks, and they responded by increasing mask production. Taiwan opened 60 new productions at various manufacturing plants across the country to produce 10 million masks a day.

The same can be done in the United States. Resources can be mobilized to fill that need. The president has the power to order the industry to produce more masks by further executing the [Defense Production Act](#). In the meantime, homemade cloth masks could be used in the community, similar to [CDC advice](#) to HCWs "when no facemasks are available." [Limited data](#) suggest that cloth masks protect against droplet transmission better than no barrier.

zeynep tufekci  @zeynep · Mar 30, 2020

Another European country is looking at switching to universal mask wearing. The evidence is clear. Still need to keep distancing and hand washing but it's a potent tool in the arsenal.

Vincent Lee  @Rover829 · Mar 30, 2020

Reuters: GERMAN HEALTH MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAYS COMPULSORY MASK WEARING MIGHT HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY WHEN WE START UNWIND LOCKDOWN MEASURES

zeynep tufekci  @zeynep · Mar 30, 2020

❗️❗️❗️ Dr. Fauci on masks and asymptomatic spread: "There is some rationale we should use [masks] much more." YES. YES! They may shift! I'm begging everyone—especially editors—give them space to change guidance. Take your finger off the clickbait on this.

twitter.com/tezuma75/status...

This Tweet is from a suspended account. [Learn more](#)

zeynep tufekci  @zeynep · Mar 30, 2020

Another lengthy paper. Also I know that other doctors, virologists and epidemiologists are rushing with preprints and other compilations of evidence. The tough part will be switching messaging, but we have to do that.

twitter.com/VirusWhisperer...

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Teil 12

zeynep tufekci  @zeynep · Mar 30, 2020

I risked a lot to publish that mask oped weeks ago—against CDC and WHO guidance. Wished someone else would. Been called everything under the sun. But the scientific community is rallying around masks.  But please, please, give the CDC/WHO space to shift. 
twitter.com/JGLEBozec/stat...

This Tweet is unavailable.

zeynep tufekci  @zeynep · Mar 30, 2020

Many more countries are sensibly adopting masks for everyday use.

john mcclean  @johnmcclean_ie · Mar 30, 2020

Wow - Bulgaria, Austria (starting with supermarkets), Germany (during wind down) all with big announcements today! With the latest Imperial model showing a high prob of still $RO > 1$ across Europe, should Ireland follow suit? @CMOIreland @SimonHarrisTD
twitter.com/Tangul_Bei/sta...

zeynep tufekci  @zeynep · Mar 30, 2020

My mask plan is homemade cotton or paper towel/tissue or procedure masks UV-C sanitized for re-use. Plan for trimming my bangs isn't so advanced, send help. 



zeynep tufekci  @zeynep · Mar 31, 2020

How is this happening? Is this true? Why aren't masks rationed? "Roughly 280 million masks from warehouses around the U.S. had been purchased by foreign buyers and were earmarked to leave the country, according to the broker — and that was in one day." [twitter.com/geoffreygertz/...](https://twitter.com/geoffreygertz/)

geoffrey gertz @geoffreygertz · Mar 30, 2020

To see the problems with just leaving this issue to market forces, read this remarkable story on how speculators and middle men have taken over the secondary market for N95 masks in the US. It's a disaster for both US and global interests. 
forbes.com/sites/daviddls...

zeynep tufekci  @zeynep · Mar 31, 2020

This may be happening! YES! Finally!   

Scott Gottlieb, MD  @ScottGottliebMD · Mar 31, 2020

Washington Post: "CDC considering recommending general public wear face coverings in public" washingtonpost.com/health/cdc-con...

zeynep tufekci  @zeynep · Mar 31, 2020

More and more countries are accepting the overwhelming evidence and science that we clearly need universal mask wearing to combat a respiratory infection with asymptomatic spread. The sooner the better: first home-made, then ramped up domestic production.

Alan Wong  @alanwongw · Mar 31, 2020

In the meantime, at least three more European countries have joined the Czech Republic in mandating the use of masks. They are Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovakia and Austria.

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NetzBeweis - Report

Teil 13

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7 57 113

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 31, 2020

Just adding this here. Also reminder that a peer-reviewed publication looking at what worked for SARS, same family as COVID, found that "masks" were the most effective intervention—better than hand-washing. Keep washing hands and distance though! Need all!

Jeremy Howard @jeremyphoward · Mar 25, 2020

What's happening here? Does this masks thing really make sense, scientifically? Yes, it does!

Here's 34 scientific papers that all point to the same thing: masks (even home made ones) really work to dramatically reduce the spread of covid-19.
tiny.cc/maskwork

Show this thread

1. Professional and Home-Made Face Masks Reduce Exposure to Respiratory Infections among the General Population
2. Coronavirus can travel twice as far as official 'safe distance' study says
3. Testing the Efficacy of Homemade Masks: Would They Protect in an Influenza Pandemic? | Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness
4. What is the efficacy of standard face masks compared to respirator masks in preventing COVID-type respiratory illnesses? | preprint
5. Aerodynamics and Surface Stability of SARS-CoV-2 as Compared with SARS-CoV-1
6. Addressing COVID-19 Face Mask Shortages: evaluating decontamination methods for N95 mask reuse
7. Rational use of face masks in the COVID-19 pandemic
8. Influenza Virus Aerosols in Human Exhaled Breath: Particle Size, Culturability, and Effect of Surgical Masks
9. Effectiveness of Masks and Respirators Against Respiratory Infections in Healthcare Workers: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis
10. Physical interventions to interrupt or reduce the spread of respiratory viruses
11. The Effectiveness of N95 Respirators versus surgical masks against influenza: A systematic review and meta-analysis
12. Modeling the Effectiveness of Respiratory Protective Devices in Reducing Influenza Outbreaks
13. Simple Respiratory Mask
14. What Hospitals Should Do to Prepare for an Influenza Pandemic
15. Flight of the aerosol
16. The bacterial and viral filtration performance of breathing system filters
17. The Effectiveness of Respiratory Protective Devices in Reducing Influenza Outbreaks
18. Do N95 Respirators Provide the Protection Level Against Airborne Viruses, and How Adequate Are Surgical Masks?
19. N95 Respirators and Surgical Masks
20. Performance of N95 Respirators: Filtration Efficiency for Airborne Microbial and Inert Particles
21. Performance of an N95 Filtering Facepiece Particulate Respirator and a Surgical Mask During Human Breathing: Two Pathways for Particle Penetration
22. Reuse Mask? DIY Mask? | Consumer Council
23. Editor's Choice: Transocular Entry of Seasonal Influenza-Attenuated Virus Aerosols and the Efficacy of N95 Respirators, Surgical Masks, and Eye Protection in Humans
24. A quantitative assessment of the efficacy of surgical and N95 masks to filter influenza virus in patients with acute influenza

2 83 145

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 31, 2020

We should've ramped up national production in January, distributing N95s to hospitals and surgical masks to people like Taiwan did. Only three "total" deaths in Taiwan as of today, despite extensive travel to China before. But here we are. Let's start now.

Ryan Struyk @ryanstruyk · Mar 31, 2020

FAUCI: "When we get in a situation where we have enough masks, I believe there will be some very serious consideration about more broadening this recommendation of using masks."

5 49 107

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 31, 2020

Yes, I've been trying to make that point for weeks. Distributing some masks now: fewer intubations in three weeks. Each intubation has massive need for PPE compared to that mask. The trick is managing the transition without depriving medical workers now.

Otro gringo haciéndose el gringo @litwicki · Mar 31, 2020

Replies to @zeynep

They just don't seem to get that if more people *outside* of hospitals were wearing masks, there would be fewer people *inside* hospitals. Holding back all the masks only for healthcare workers only ensures hospitals will be more overwhelmed & healthcare workers more at risk.

1 19 64

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 31, 2020

On the one hand, thank you. On the other hand, it was a hard piece to write, personally (a lot of risk). On the other other hand, the science was clear and media should challenge authorities when/if the science/facts warrant it. Otherwise what's the point?

Arjun Moorthy @juicemoorthy · Mar 31, 2020

I've been a fan of @zeynep since before Twitter and Tear Gas. Here she rightly calls out the WHO and CDC for improper guidance on masks, though she could have also called out the media more generally for not questioning the guidance when plenty of data to the contrary. twitter.com/thefactualnews...

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4 7 66

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 31, 2020

In the digital age, neither journalists nor pundits need to spend too much time merely repeating what the authorities say, but rather also evaluating it in a credible and fact and science based manner. No science/facts=crank. No evaluation=irrelevant.

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Teil 14

it in a credible and fact and science based manner. No science/facts=crank. No evaluation=irrelevant.

F The Factual @thefactualnews · Mar 31, 2020

However, the media did not change its stance on masks until March 17, when @zeynep recognized the media's shortcomings in a @nytimes article. Tufekci acknowledged precisely just what was wrong with CDC messaging, and how the media failed to question it. nyti.ms/2UuE62k

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3 31 77

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Apr 1, 2020

See this screenshot of Taiwan's action on masks (link has list of all its actions). Taiwan had extensive ties/travel with China but it has a total of five COVID-19 deaths and only a few hundred cases. Its schools have been open for more than a month. cdn.jamanetwork.com/ama/content_pu...

Actions on Resource Allocation	
Date	Policy and/or Action
Jan 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government allocates masks to retailers and sets price limit of 50 masks at NT\$300 (USD \$10) Ministries of Health and Welfare promote quarantine efforts and setup notification mechanism through travel agents and tour guides Ministry of Economic Affairs lists daily local mask manufacturing capability at 2.44 million units which surpasses the local demand of 1.3 million per day
Jan 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Testing of COVID-19 to take place at Taiwan CDC or eight designated hospitals Export ban on disposable surgical masks until Feb 23 Outbound travelers can only take up to 250 masks Violation of the ban results in confiscation and a fine of 3 times the masks' value
Jan 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 million masks released daily from local manufacturers Only 1-3 masks are allowed per purchase at convenience stores, local pharmacies, and medical supply stores Mask prices are currently fixed at NT\$8 apiece (USD \$0.27) Taiwan's Disease Control and Quarantine Office starts a nationwide campaign to stop profiteering by raising prices on disease prevention products; penalty is 1-7 years in jail and a fine up to NT\$5 million (USD \$167,000) 4 million surgical masks produced per day with 1.4 million allotted to hospitals and medical workers with remaining 2.6 million for consumer sales
Jan 31	Government requires surgical masks from Jan 31 to Feb 15
Feb 1	Mask prices drop to NT\$6 apiece (USD \$0.20)
Feb 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government facilitates (domes or state military camp) used for quarantine. Soldiers mobilized to production lines at local mask factories. 60 additional surgical mask machines being installed with 10% of capacity reserved for children. Each machine can manufacture 100,000 surgical masks per day. Normally, 60 production lines require 4-6 months to activate but all will be ready in one month. The daily output will be boosted to 10 million masks a day.

6 53 108

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Apr 1, 2020

(Apparently link broken so here it is again, a list of actions Taiwan took to contain the epidemic. cdn.jamanetwork.com/ama/content_pu...)

2 14 30

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Apr 2, 2020

Health care workers! Please consider signing this petition asking for CDC and the WHO to give clear, evidence-based guidance on masks. Every person who's not infected is one less patient you have to care for during this time. Folks, feel free to share. medwiser.org/sign-petition-...

International Physicians and Health Care workers call on WHO and CDC to reserve PPE for frontline medical teams and recommend nonmedical fabric face masks be worn by public.

We the physicians and health care workers around the world, working on the front lines fighting against COVID-19 and treating victims of this disease call on the CDC and WHO to add further safety information to their public recommendations during this escalating public health crisis. We trust the CDC and WHO to lead our medical teams and help us keep the public safe from harm. During this crisis, the public education and information we receive from WHO and CDC is crucial to keeping us all safe and to minimize further loss of life. We hope to work with these esteemed organizations to implement their recommendations to contain COVID-19.

COVID-19 is a novel virus. Thus far we have learned it is a respiratory virus that is highly infectious being spread by asymptomatic carriers and those lacking noticeable symptoms through large droplet transmission. As such, face masks have an important role to play in slowing the spread of this disease by people who may not even know they are infected. Several countries including, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China and South Korea have recommended all healthcare workers and the public wear facemasks to prevent community transmission. The fall in the number of reported cases of people contracting the disease in these areas demonstrates

2 35 71

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Apr 2, 2020

These articles aren't even attempting to be coherent anymore. There is no known evidence of harm. It's a lot of weird speculation—all of which flies in the face of all the overwhelming scientific evidence we have.

RTÉ News @rtenews · Apr 2, 2020

The debate around mask-wearing is highly complex and, crucially, experts are warning that ill-fitting and improperly worn masks can do more harm than good, writes @ElMcM rte.ie/news/2020/0402...

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NetzBeweis - Report

Teil 15

more harm than good, writes @EIMcM rte.ie/news/2020/0402...

8 25 95 ...

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Apr 3, 2020

But the world is moving. Time for WHO and the CDC to catch up to making evidence-based recommendation for face masks. People need guidance on sanitization/reuse for cloth, and we need rationed distribution once we have surgical mask production catch up.

Mayor Eric Adams @NYCMayor · Apr 2, 2020

We have new guidance for New Yorkers:

We're advising New Yorkers to wear a face covering when you go outside and near others. It can be a scarf, a bandana or one you make at home. But PLEASE: save medical masks for our health care workers & first responders who truly need them.

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2 27 70 ...

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Apr 3, 2020

Finally. Finally.

Steve Herman @W7VOA · Apr 3, 2020

Guidance from @CDCgov on face masks coming within days. Our latest @VOANews report: voanews.com/science-health...

#coronavirus #COVID 19 @WhiteHouse

5 13 62 ...

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Apr 3, 2020

I had people tell me that my insistence on continuing to point out the overwhelming scientific evidence in favor of universal mask wearing was about my "anxiety". In reality, I have the privilege of staying home. Many don't. This was always about them.

Lois Beckett @loisbeckett · Apr 3, 2020

Jason Hargrove, a Detroit bus driver, posted an emotional Facebook video about a woman coughing on his bus without covering her mouth.

Within days, he was sick.

Less than 2 weeks later, he was dead.

Fellow drivers ask: what protections will they get? google.com/amp/s/amp.free...

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12 67 213 ...

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Apr 3, 2020

Yep. Totally okay for ordinary people to think CDC/WHO got this right. They normally do! But if you needed to separate the good science journalist from the one that parrots official advice without analytic thinking/deep digging themselves... Litmus moment! twitter.com/enscan/status...

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Teil 16

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zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Apr 3, 2020

Yes! Finally! One thing left: CDC should issue guidelines for best practices for home-made masks and their re-use and sanitization, and consider distributing/rationing a few surgical masks per person in hotspots with instructions for sanitization/reuse.

Reuters @Reuters · Apr 3, 2020

Americans should cover faces and also keep distance: Dr. Fauci reut.rs/3aME8BC



4 39 87 ...

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Apr 3, 2020

The WHO is also, finally, finally, finally shifting. WHO, like the CDC, should quickly issue guidelines for best practices and sanitization. Time for them to step up and do what they are supposed to do, and can do.

Jeremy Howard @jeremyphoward · Apr 3, 2020

New @WHO guidance finally opens the door to #Masks4All. The science described here is incorrect still, but hopefully this step makes more jurisdictions feel able to introduce laws or guidance. reuters.com/article/us-hea...

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8 42 112 ...

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Apr 3, 2020

I can't wait to put an end to this thread.

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Jun 5, 2020

The WHO finally "encourages" the public to wear masks. What a tragic waste of time and a needless squandering of medical authority amidst a pandemic. By March, there was enough evidence of presymptomatic and asymptomatic transmission for me to write this.

Fourth, the W.H.O. and the C.D.C. told the public to wear masks if they were sick. However, there is increasing evidence of asymptomatic transmission, especially through younger people who have milder cases and don't know they are sick but are still infectious. Since the W.H.O. and the C.D.C. do say that masks lessen the chances that infected people will infect others, then everyone should use masks. If the public is told that only the sick people are to wear masks, then those who do wear them will be stigmatized and people may avoid wearing them if it screams "I'm sick." Further, it's very difficult to be tested for Covid-19 in the United States. How are people supposed to know for sure when to mask up?

Fifth, places like Hong Kong and Taiwan that jumped to action early with social distancing and universal mask wearing have the pandemic under much greater control, despite having significant travel from mainland China. Hong Kong health officials credit universal mask wearing as part of the solution and recommend universal mask wearing. In fact, Taiwan responded to the coronavirus by immediately ramping up mask production.

World Health Organization (WHO) @WHO · Jun 5, 2020

"In light of evolving evidence, WHO advises that governments should encourage the general public to wear masks where there is widespread transmission & physical distancing is difficult, such as on public transport, in shops or in other confined or crowded environments"-@DrTedros

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zeynep tufekci @zeynep

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NetzBeweis - Report

Teil 17

zeynep tufekci   @zeynep

Also not only is there no evidence for this claim, there is emerging evidence for the opposite, and there is decades of evidence from other safety devices that this concern is not warranted, and if this was a thing, it would also apply to hand-washing. 😊

World Health Organization (WHO)  @WHO · Jun 5, 2020
"Masks can also create a false sense of security, leading people to neglect measures such as hand hygiene and physical distancing" -@DrTedros #COVID19
[Show this thread](#)

3:52 PM · Jun 5, 2020

40 Retweets 7 Quotes 155 Likes

zeynep tufekci   @zeynep · Jun 5, 2020
Replying to @zeynep
Here's a preprint of a paper (I'm a co-author) where we review the "false sense of security" claim and explain why it doesn't stand to evidence at all, and why, on the contrary, universal masks would be expected to lessen stigma and heighten solidarity. preprints.org/manuscript/202...

trust, but concerns about how they will be used.

A. Risk communication: How is it going to predict the behavior of people who would accept regulations requiring public mask use. One concern around public health messaging promoting the use of face-covering has been that members of the public will feel a false sense of security. This involves neglecting other important preventative measures like physical distancing and hand hygiene based on overvaluing the protective effect of masks. There is also a risk of exaggerated or false sense of security (52). Similar arguments have previously been made for HIV prevention strategies (53) (54) (55) (56) (57) (58) (59) (60) (61) (62) (63) (64) (65) (66) (67) (68) (69) (70). However, contrary to predictions, risk communication behaviors have not been significant on popular health websites (52) (53) (54) (55) (56) (57) (58) (59) (60) (61) (62) (63) (64) (65) (66) (67) (68) (69) (70). In many countries, minorities suffer additional stigma and as- when masks are used as source control, but become a public label of being sick. More sick people will refuse to eat out to wear a mask if it identifies them as sick, and they end up not wearing them at all in an effort to avoid the stigma of illness (63, 64). Some health authorities have recommended wearing masks for COVID-19 only if people are sick; however, repeated use of masks by healthy people has been shown to be stigmatized and have also been observed (65). Having masks worn only by the people with disease has also led to employers in high-risk industries like food service and healthcare and other firms, including employees to wear masks to prevent stigma from scaring the customer, patients or inmates (66, 67). In many countries, minorities suffer additional stigma and as-

before the government had taken any action, Hong Kong has not only a higher rate of mask-wearing than the rest of the world, but also a higher rate of influenza cases as well. This is attributed, among other factors, to the high rate of mask-wearing and strong norms around mask-wearing.

zeynep tufekci   @zeynep · Jun 5, 2020
If some past person had told me I'd spend most of my energy in the first months of a pandemic arguing against CDC and WHO guidelines, that they would drag their feet despite mounting evidence, and that we'd rely on grassroots movements instead, I'd have dismissed them as nuts.

zeynep tufekci   @zeynep · Jun 6, 2020
I've been arguing for months that the most likely outcome of masks would be INCREASED adherence to distancing—because that's what social science suggests. That baseless "false sense of security" claim had no evidence for it. Now, experimental confirmation.

Babak Javid @javid_lab · Jun 6, 2020
This is a cool study! Masks/goggles increase social/physical distancing by OTHERS to wearer: as measured by remote sensing technology!
Doesn't tackle the straw man 'masks make wearers more reckless', but suggests even ineffective masks may protect by increasing physical distances twitter.com/EricTopol/stat...

zeynep tufekci   @zeynep · Jun 15, 2020
So Dr. Fauci has just said the public was told not to wear masks because they "were in very short supply." I just want to remind everyone what it was like in March—viral threads telling us not to wear masks. (Not picking on one person here—she was misled like everyone else).

Postdocs-Teknolojistler   @Postdocs_Teknolojistler · May 11
When and if we get through this mask shortage, we will almost certainly have to get used to universal mask usage as we relax the lockdown. In that case, we will have to make sure that the mask-wearing does not become a stigma because it is not correct.

Charlotte G   @Charlotte_G · May 11
When universal mask-wearing is recommended, it will be because the environmental characteristics of the audience have changed in a way that makes it necessary to wear a mask, not because they are not wearing them. But that's not where we are at the moment.

Eric Topol   @EricTopol · May 11
We can not make an experimental conclusion that you do not wear masks to prevent you from infecting someone else, said Fauci. "But also, it can protect you a certain degree, not a hundred percent, in protecting you from getting infected from someone who, either is breathing, or coughing, or sneezing, or singing or whatever it is in which the droplets or the aerosols go out. So it makes work."

So, why weren't we told to wear masks in the beginning?

Postdocs-Teknolojistler   @Postdocs_Teknolojistler · May 11
"Well, the reason for that is that we were concerned the public health community, and many people were saying this, were concerned that it was at a time when personal protective equipment, including the N95 masks and the surgical masks, were in very short supply. And we wanted to make sure that...

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NetzBeweis - Report

Teil 18

56 525 1,276 ...

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Jun 15, 2020

How we got here: we were told that masks increased wearer's risk compared to no masks—and many experts and media parroted this uncritically despite absolute lack of evidence for this. And I could point to asymptomatic transmission in mid-March because there were already papers.

Caroline Orr @rikawirk Mar 21 Some people are disregarding the guidance they've been given. Others haven't been given clear guidance & some don't understand the guidance that has been given. I think most people think masks are the grocery store equivalent to how they view "increasing" their risk.

Caroline Orr @rikawirk Mar 21 I have not seen any kind of a public education campaign aimed at increasing mask use. I think that's a mistake. For the avg person, wearing a mask makes you more likely to trap germs near your mouth. (After touching your face or adjusting the mask.)

Caroline Orr @rikawirk Mar 21 Some things people need to know about masks but aren't being told/aren't hearing: 1. People are going out a false sense of security. Masks are still going out to public places bc they think it's safe with a mask. This needs to stop. 2. Healthcare workers need the masks you're buying

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8 143 437 ...

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Jun 15, 2020

Don't focus on any one person! This was practically the entire ecology in March with authorities telling us masks were a risk and unnecessary—instead of the truth: shortage—and "experts"/media parrotting them uncritically instead of looking at actual research or Asian expertise.

9 62 304 ...

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Jun 15, 2020

Of course! I wrote this, too, when people said "what about the shortages"? First, ramp up production then! Second, cloth masks are good for now. Third, each intubation requires tons of PPE! Every reduced case prevents deaths **and** helps the shortage. [twitter.com/DinoStracioli...?](http://twitter.com/DinoStracioli...)

You're unable to view this Tweet because this account owner limits who can view their Tweets. [Learn more](#)

7 30 160 ...

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Jun 23, 2020

Once again, Dr. Fauci says that they did not advise masks earlier because "there was a paucity of equipment that our healthcare workers required." But we were told masks were unnecessary, even harmful. They forgot "a pandemic is a communication emergency".

Dr. Morgenstern, #COVID19 Research ... @d... · Jun 23, 2020

#Fauci says he doesn't regret not advising people to wear #facemasks because there was a shortage for #healthcareworkers.

Should have asked if #fauci regrets advising that #facemasks don't work which undermined credibility when #CDC later asked people to wear them.

The media could not be played.

Reload

8 32 100 ...

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Jun 24, 2020

I don't live in the same universe as this CNN correspondent. Dr. Fauci admits they didn't recommend masks before—and even said they may harm, don't work—because of the shortage, and that's sign of a "best communicator? No, no, that's how you lose trust. [twitter.com/joshscampbell...?](http://twitter.com/joshscampbell...)

This Tweet is unavailable.

9 24 91 ...

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Jun 24, 2020

Could some "actual" reporters dig into that, and also this?

Jeremy Howard @jeremyphoward · Jun 24, 2020

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Teil 19

 **Jeremy Howard** @jeremyphoward · Jun 24, 2020

I just found this very concerning podcast with epidemiologist Ian Lipkin, former WHO adviser on SARS, who said that he chose *not* to release information that masks were strongly protective against SARS, in order to protect supply. microbe.tv/twiv/twiv-spec...

[Show this thread](#)

conversation almost a month ago with Arnold Monteau and Alison Ayeleo who are re... in the whole topic of facemasks and whether they are or not valuable. And back in there was a WHO investigation it wasn't as large as some people would like to see. I have to do these things opportunistically that showed that facemasks, whether surgical or not, had a dramatic impact on community transmission and that met one particular bar that was very compelling. In epidemiological research when you see something called a dose-response curve it's very compelling. So people who use facemasks in a consistent way had a 71% reduction in community transmission and if they used them intermittently it was 60%. I thought about trying to publish this because if I did that, if we did that, it would have deprived people on the front lines because there weren't sufficient facemasks from getting access to them. It would have made things worse, so I didn't proceed with that. So that's something that's going to go in the memoirs rather than in the written record.

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